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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 5 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to communicate to you the following with regard to the letter dated 20 December 1996 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (A/51/765).

The Chargé d'affaires of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) tried, as in previous similar cases, to avert the attention of the international community from the real situation in Kosova. It is not the only time the Belgrade authorities have attempted to place the responsibility for the serious situation in Kosova elsewhere rather than where it belongs, i.e. the oppressive and terrorizing policies and practices originating in and orchestrated from Belgrade and which are committed systematically by the Serbian police against the Albanians of Kosova.

I wish to recall that the massive violations of human rights in Kosova have continued for a long time now, but during the last few years they have taken on dramatic proportions. In this context, I mention in particular the police brutality against the Albanians of Kosova, the killing of Albanians resulting from such violence, arbitrary searches and arrests, use of torture against and maltreatment of detainees, deliberate persecution and imprisonment of Albanian political and human rights activists, mass dismissals of the Albanians from their jobs, discrimination against Albanian teachers and students, closure of the scientific and cultural institutions of the Albanians and the bringing into practice of a military and police occupation of Kosova. My Government expresses its deep concern about and condemnation of the recent acts of police violence against the Albanians in Kosova, the killings resulting from those police actions and the latest arbitrary arrests carried out throughout Kosova. The

Serb police and military violence has resulted in the forced migration of Albanians from their lands, an exodus that over the years has turned out to be a silent ethnic cleansing, which is also the clear objective of the Serb brutality in Kosova.

Expressing their concern about the grave situation in Kosova, the United Nations and regional organizations, especially the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), have repeatedly called upon the Belgrade authorities to stop the repression against the Albanians, as well as to allow the establishment of an adequate international monitoring presence in Kosova. Regrettably, however, we find that there is still no positive attitude and action on the part of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in response to the international concern. We call upon those authorities to respect General Assembly resolution 49/204 of 23 December 1994, 50/190 of 22 December 1995 and 51/111 of 12 December 1996, of the resolutions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as relevant decisions of OSCE relating to the situation in Kosova and to the need for its improvement.

The concern of the Republic of Albania about the unacceptable serious situation in Kosova is a legitimate and principal concern based on the Charter of the United Nations. Albania is guided by and respects the principle of refraining from altering borders through the use of force and that of the right of all peoples to self-determination. With its peaceful policy in support of peace initiatives for the region, Albania has and will be a factor for stability in the Balkans. In conclusion, I would like to recall the repeated demands of the General Assembly for respect for the will of the inhabitants of Kosova and for constructive dialogue between the Belgrade authorities and the representatives of the Albanian people of Kosova.

I would highly appreciate it if the text of the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pellumb KULLA
Permanent Representative